

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for separating a germ fraction from a corn kernel, comprising:  
Milling the corn kernel to make a milled corn kernel; and  
Separating the germ fraction from the milled corn kernel by adding the kernel and germ fraction to an isotonic solution comprising fermentable sucrose and water as the predominant isotonic materials wherein the germ fraction continuously rises to the top of the solution and the remaining milled corn kernel sinks to the bottom of the solution.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the isotonic solution is enclosed in a vessel.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the germ is continuously removed from the top of the vessel.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the remainder of the corn kernel is continuously removed from the bottom of the vessel.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the isotonic solution comprises a recyclable material and water.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising adding water to the corn kernel prior to milling.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the milling is performed in a dry mill.

9-15. (Canceled)